

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)


TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 8, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the Mayor to work collaboratively, including convening a workshop, with municipal police agencies in Miami-Dade County to create a Countywide best practices guide for investigations of endangered missing persons for all police departments in the County to use

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney



APW/smm



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(Revised)

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Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☒ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)
3-8-16

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR THE MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO (1) WORK COLLABORATIVELY, INCLUDING CONVENING A WORKSHOP, WITH MUNICIPAL POLICE AGENCIES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO CREATE A COUNTYWIDE BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF ENDANGERED MISSING PERSONS FOR ALL POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE COUNTY TO USE; (2) NEGOTIATE ANY NECESSARY AGREEMENTS, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WITH MUNICIPAL POLICE AGENCIES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN ORDER TO FULLY ADOPT THE COUNTYWIDE BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR MISSING PERSONS INVESTIGATIONS; (3) PREPARE A STAFFING PLAN TO FACILITATE THE RECEIPT AND DISTRIBUTION OF MISSING PERSONS INTELLIGENCE BY THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL VICTIMS BUREAU CLEARINGHOUSE; (4) REVIEW THE OPTION OF PURCHASING A REVERSE 9-1-1 CALL SYSTEM TO DISTRIBUTE MISSING PERSONS INFORMATION; AND (5) IDENTIFY AND EXPEND AVAILABLE FUNDING SOURCES FROM WITHIN THE 2015-2016 COUNTY BUDGET IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A COUNTYWIDE BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF ENDANGERED MISSING PERSONS, EXECUTE THE STAFFING PLAN, AND FOR PURCHASE OF THE REVERSE 9-1-1 CALL SYSTEM; FURTHER DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR THE MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO PREPARE A REPORT

WHEREAS, the America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response Alert ("AMBER Alert") is a partnership between law-enforcement agencies and local radio and television broadcasters to broadcast an emergency bulletin to the public when a child has been abducted and it is believed that the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death; and

WHEREAS, the statewide Silver Alert program is a similar emergency bulletin to the public when a person over the age of 60 goes missing, or when a person who is between the ages of 18 and 59 who suffers from an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties goes missing; and

WHEREAS, there are no programs similar to the AMBER Alert or Silver Alert programs that broadcast an emergency bulletin to the public when a non-cognitively impaired adult or an adult under the age of 60 goes missing and is believed to be in life-threatening danger; and

WHEREAS, Noemi Gonzalez, 54, went missing on February 12, 2014 from her North Miami home where she was last seen on the evening of February 11, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Noemi Gonzalez's son discovered that Ms. Gonzalez had gone missing when he awoke on February 12th and found that she was not in their home, her bed was unmade, her wallet and cell phone were in the house, and the front door of the home was unlocked; and

WHEREAS, Noemi Gonzalez remains missing; and

WHEREAS, Tanya Gonzalez, 28, was last seen on September 9, 2014, at a Miami shopping center; and

WHEREAS, after not reporting to work on September 10, 2014, the authorities were notified that Tanya Gonzalez had gone missing and that her family feared that her ex-boyfriend was involved in her disappearance since she had recently ended their volatile relationship; and

WHEREAS, Tanya Gonzalez's body, already in a state of decomposition, was found in the trunk of her car on September 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the car was discovered in a Miami neighborhood by a resident who recognized it from news reports and called police to report the car; and

WHEREAS, Noemi Gonzalez and Tanya Gonzalez did not qualify for an emergency bulletin under the existing programs when they went missing, but law enforcement's efforts in searching for them would have been aided by such a bulletin; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) and other municipal law enforcement agencies have recently launched roundtable discussions in an attempt to create Countywide uniform best practices for investigations of endangered missing persons who would not qualify for an existing emergency alert bulletin; and

WHEREAS, these uniform protocols will be followed by all agencies and police departments within Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the MDPD's missing persons information is currently captured and stored by the Special Victims Bureau (SVB) Clearinghouse; and

WHEREAS, the SVB Clearinghouse obtains information on all missing persons reported throughout the country through the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC); and

WHEREAS, the SVB Clearinghouse currently captures, consolidates, and prepares informational press releases for all of MDPD's missing persons cases; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the receipt and distribution of missing persons intelligence from municipal police departments, the SVB would require an additional four Police Crime Analysis Specialists (PCAS) to perform these functions; and

WHEREAS, the combined cost per year for the four PCAS positions is approximately \$194,282.00; and

WHEREAS, each municipal police department would still be responsible for all analytical work for its missing persons cases, including the issuance of appropriate alerts; and

WHEREAS, the SVB Clearinghouse would serve as the repository and distribution center for flyers and information received by the respective municipal police departments; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the purchase of a reverse 9-1-1 call system, otherwise known as a robo-call system, would allow the SVB Clearinghouse to distribute missing persons information via telephone calls to residences and businesses within a selected radius of the missing persons incident or other determined location; and

WHEREAS, the initial cost for a reverse 9-1-1 call system is approximately \$100,000.00, with an annual cost of approximately \$10,000.00 for service and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of the collaborative efforts between the MDPD and other municipal law enforcement agencies, the creation of additional PCAS positions, and the purchase of the reverse 9-1-1 call system will likely result in more efficient missing persons investigations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Directs the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to:

(a) work collaboratively, including convening a workshop, with municipal police agencies in Miami-Dade County to create a Countywide best practices guide for investigations of endangered missing persons for all police departments in the County to use. The workshop should seek to include the attendance of all necessary administrators, investigators, and police legal advisors from each municipal police department in Miami-Dade County so that all police agencies may provide helpful suggestions towards the creation of a uniform, Countywide best practices guide for missing persons investigations. The workshop shall include a formal agenda and discuss topics, including, but not limited to: 1) the legal requirements of Section 937.021, Florida Statutes, and whether police agencies within the County are complying with Florida law;

2) ways in which police crime analysis specialists or individuals tasked with investigating missing persons reports in other jurisdictions can work collaboratively to more efficiently locate missing persons; 3) when and what information should be disseminated to the public in order to advance a missing persons investigation; 4) what resources are and can be used by each municipality to disseminate information regarding a missing persons investigation; 5) what mechanism can be created, if any, to assist with location of missing adults who do not otherwise qualify for an existing missing persons alert notification; and 6) whether future workshops are necessary in order to finalize the creation of a Countywide best practices guide for investigations of endangered missing persons. The Mayor or the Mayor's designee is further directed to provide a draft version of the best practices guide for investigations of endangered missing persons to all attendees in order to facilitate discussion and solicit input and suggestions. The workshop shall be hosted by the Mayor or the Mayor's designee within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution;

(b) develop any necessary agreements, including, but not limited to, a standard form agreement, subject to approval by the Board of County Commissioners, with municipal police agencies in Miami-Dade County in order to fully adopt the Countywide best practices guide for missing persons investigations;

(c) prepare a staffing plan to facilitate the receipt and distribution of missing persons intelligence from municipal police departments by the Special Victims Bureau (SVB) Clearinghouse. The staffing plan could include the creation and funding of four additional Police Crime Analysis Specialists or the re-assignment of existing staff to fulfill the duties of four additional PCAS positions. Such specialists could, in addition to all other required job duties, be tasked with compiling and disseminating information regarding missing persons in Miami-Dade County to all appropriate channels, including other police agencies and news and media outlets.

The analysts could also be responsible for monitoring the National and Florida Crime Information Center databases and disseminating information found therein to other municipal police agencies in Miami-Dade County in order to assist with active missing person investigations. The PCAS analysts should be tasked with complying with any reporting requirements enumerated in Section 937.021, Florida Statutes. The Mayor or the Mayor's designee is further directed to create, if necessary, additional protocols as to how and when the PCAS analysts are expected to retrieve and disseminate missing person information;

(d) review the option of purchasing a reverse 9-1-1 call system, otherwise known as a robo-call system, which would allow the SVB Clearinghouse to distribute missing persons information via telephone calls to residences and businesses; and

(e) identify possible available funding sources from within the 2015-2016 County Budget in order to develop a Countywide best practices guide for investigations of endangered missing persons to be used by all municipal police agencies operating in Miami-Dade County, host a workshop in furtherance of such an objective as described in subsection (a), implement the staffing plan, and purchase the reverse 9-1-1 call system to be used by the SVB Clearinghouse to distribute missing persons information. The Mayor or the Mayor's designee is further requested to prepare any necessary budget amendment to the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget to effectuate the foregoing. If budgetary funds are not available in the current fiscal year to accomplish the initiatives identified in subsections (a) through (d), the Mayor or the Mayor's designee is requested to include funding to accomplish this resolution as a part of the proposed fiscal year 2016-2017 County budget.

Section 2. Directs the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to prepare a report regarding the creation and implementation of all issues identified in Section 1. The report shall include all information as requested in Section 1 of this resolution, including information listing who attended the workshop identified in subsection (a), the status of any agreements between Miami-Dade County and municipal police agencies to implement the Countywide best practices guide for missing persons investigations, information regarding the hiring status of four additional PCAS analysts, an update on the purchase of the reverse 9-1-1 call system, a copy of the newly created Countywide best practices guide for investigations of endangered missing persons, and a recommendation as to whether additional funds are needed to implement or continue to implement the issues identified in Section 1. The completed report shall be provided to this Board within 180 days of the effective date of this resolution and placed on an agenda of the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 8th day of March, 2016. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Annery Pulgar Alfonso
Javier Zapata

